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ORDINANCE REQUIRING VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX UPHELD.

An ordinance of San Antonio, Tex., which provides that the city board of health may require the vaccination against smallpox of pupils, teachers, and school employees, has been held valid by the Court of Civil Appeals of Texas.¹ The court decided that vaccination could be required even though no epidemic of smallpox existed. The following is quoted from the opinion:

We hold that the ordinance is valid; not unreasonable on the claimed ground that it operates without reference to the actual existence of a smallpox epidemic in the city; that there is no unlawful discrimination against persons attending schools, and it is not unreasonable and arbitrary, in view of the conditions in the Mexican quarter of the city and the crowding together of people in street cars, jitneys, theaters, churches, passenger depots, factories, laundries, parks, etc. Nor does it deny appellant, or any pupil, rights and privileges without due course of the law of the land. The [That?] other pupils not vaccinated are permitted to attend school under similar circumstances, if true, would only show the officers were not performing a public duty, but can not affect the validity of the law.

ORDINANCE RESTRICTING RUNNING AT LARGE OF DOGS HELD VALID.²

In a civil action for damages the Court of Civil Appeals of Texas had occasion to pass upon the validity of an ordinance containing the following provision:

Provided, That it shall be unlawful for any dog to be at large upon the streets, alleys, or public grounds of said city unless the same shall be at all times under the control of its master or its master's servant or agent, by means of a chain, rope, or cord of sufficient strength to control the actions of said dog, or such other personal presence and attention as will reasonably control its actions and conduct.

It was stated in the opinion that "there can be no doubt that an ordinance entirely prohibiting letting dogs run at large would be valid. The question therefore is whether that part of the ordinance wherein it is attempted to state in what manner the owner can escape the effect of the general prohibition is so uncertain and vague that it renders the ordinance invalid." The court held the ordinance to be valid.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING ABSTRACTS.

Subsurface sewage disposal.—W. A. Hardenbergh. *Public Works*, vol. 49, No. 24, December 11, 1920, p. 553.

In the disposal of effluent from septic tanks subsurface irrigation is usually the solution where contact beds, sprinkling filters, or sand beds do not give satisfactory results. A great many local and other

¹ *Zucht v. King et al.*, 225 S. W., 267.

² *Pettus v. Weyel*, 225 S. W., 191.

considerations are important in determining what is the proper or improper installation of subsurface drains. Recommendations of the State boards of health of California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, the United States Public Health Service, and the Department of Agriculture as to the amount, size, and laying of tiling for the disposal of effluent are given. The following table gives the length of tiling recommended per person in various States:

State.	Persons.	Feet of tiling.		Remarks.
		Light soil.	Heavy soil.	
California.....	1	.....	.....	40 to 100 feet of tiling.
Florida.....	.....	.....	.....	Proposes 1,250 persons per acre.
Illinois.....	1	100	.....	Feet of tiling per family. Soil conditions vary greatly.
Kansas.....	.....	200	¹ 300	
Louisiana.....	.....	.....	.....
Maryland.....	4	140	300	Soil conditions vary greatly.
	6	210	450	
	8	280	600	
	10	350	750	
Maine.....	1	35	80-90	
New York.....	1	10-60	.....	Soil conditions vary greatly.
North Carolina.....	.....	.....	.....
Virginia.....	5	250	500-750	
Washington.....	.....	.....	.....	160 feet of tiling per family.
Wisconsin.....	1	.....	.....	20 to 100 feet of tiling.
U. S. Public Health Service..	.....	.....	.....	Recommends 40 lineal feet per person. (Frank and Rhynus.)

¹ Or more.

In general it is economy in the end to put in plenty of tiling. In tight soils it may be cheaper to use the filter trench.

More and better sanitary laws, ordinances, rules, and supervision essential to-day.—Arthur Bateman. *Domestic Engineering*, vol 93, No. 12, December 18, 1920, p. 554.

Lack of houses in this country has caused great increase in unsanitary conditions. At present, of 22,500,000 houses in the United States owned by occupants, only 5,000,000 have plumbing. Of 48,360 drug stores, less than 2 per cent have satisfactory plumbing. Over 36,000 confectioneries are more than 85 per cent inadequately plumbed. Similar conditions exist in factories, workshops, schools, etc.

Great sanitary improvements are necessary among farmers in the production of milk and in the construction of privies.

Public comfort stations in municipalities, which are a necessity, are lacking to a very large extent.